

Solutions eNewsletter

October 2012

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In This Issue

[Clearwater Urges Voting](#)

[FMERA Disdains
Transparency](#)

[Members Celebrate](#)

[Critics Slam FMERA](#)

[Joint Meeting Preview](#)

[Independent Testing Victory at
RAB](#)

[NJFC Website
Become a Member](#)

Clearwater Sponsors
Whale Pond Watershed Assoc.
Cleanup
Ross Island, Red Oaks Drive,
Elberon, NJ October 28, 10am

Board of Directors/Fundraising
Meeting, October 17, 7:30pm
25 Peters Place, Red Bank

Environmental Committee Mtg
Sunday, Oct. 21, 8:30-10am
Cobblestone Restaurant, Eatontown

Monthly Joint Clearwater--Sierra Club
Meeting, October 22, 6-8:00pm,
Student Life Center (SLC)
Brookdale Community College



NJ Clearwater Urges You to Vote for the Environment

"In this pivotal Presidential election year, eco-friendly representatives and laws are on the endangered species list hunted down by big oil and the tea party at all levels of government", said Ed Dlugosz. "Our precious Clean Water & Air Acts and the EPA are the targets on the national level. In NJ, the NJDEP is being dismantled by the Waiver Rule and outsourcing regulations enforcement to environmental contractors, known as LSRPs, who may advise the polluters and have serious conflicts of interest. We urge voters to vote for the Environment by opposing candidates who have poor eco-records and are indebted to big business." For lists of eco-friendly candidates go to: [National Eco-Friendly Candidates](#) and [NJ Endorsements](#).

FMERA Disdains Transparency & Official Reuse Plan

by Ed Dlugosz

The move to change the makeup of the FMERA Advisory Committees (see Critics Slam article below) is not FMERA's Steadman's and board's first attempt to eliminate transparency and stack the deck to inhibit the public from hearing the Environmental and other Advisory Committee's criticisms and warnings.

Where its predecessor, FMERPA, had committee meetings open to the public with official minutes IAW the Sunshine Laws, Steadman's first order of business upon establishment of FMERA was to rename them Staff Advisory Committees and have members of the committees sign blanket Non-Disclosure Agreements in their successful attempt to make the meetings private and quell any dissent from reaching the public's collective cognizance. FMERA is ignoring that it is a state authority, created by a law and manned by the state agency Economic Development Agency (EDA).

FMERA is also blatantly ignoring the official FMERPA Reuse Plan signed off by the Army, the State, and the local governments. Most recently, FMERA strong-armed Eatontown by placing Monmouth County DPW road crew--which hadn't been considered in the Plan--next to a current Eatontown residential neighborhood in an area



Google Directions from Your Location to Monthly Meeting @ Student Life Center, Brookdale

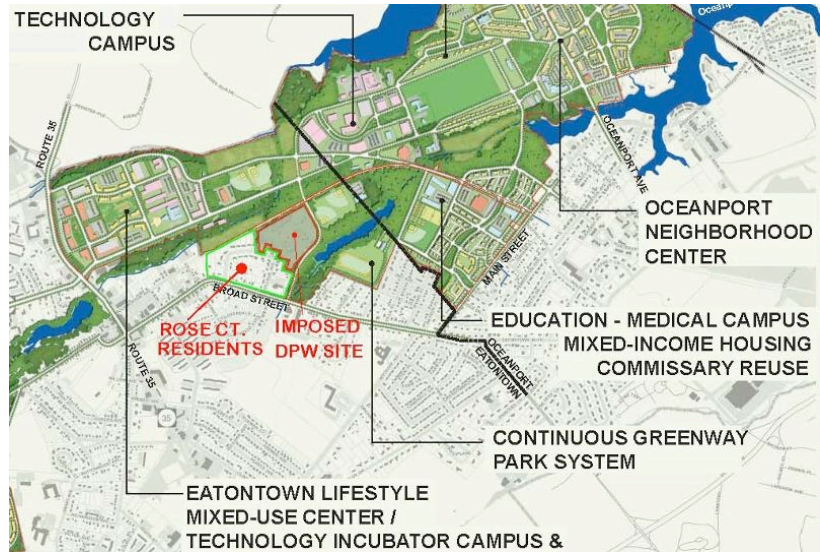
Board of Directors
 President: Joellen Lundy
 VP: Jim Franchi
 Ed Dlugosz, Ben Forest, Andrea Spinelli, Marilyn Johnson, George Moffatt, Ingrid Heldt, Lynn Humphrey

Article Deadline for Next Issue is Last Friday of Month

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designated as open space these past 4 years. Not only are the residents upset at having active diesel trucks operating at all hours, the manner in which it came to light was less than transparent and threatening the town with worse scenarios--pay \$3M or accept commercial truckers--if they didn't accept new proposal.



MC DPW in Open Space Next to Residents. Something Is Out of Place!

Another even more egregious and successful attempt at secrecy was revealed at an Eatontown Borough Council Meeting on October 3 where the Council was asked to vote to agree to FMERA's Draft Fort Monmouth Land Use Regulations and Development and Design Guidelines without having permission to read the document. When the Council members balked at this, they were told by the Mayor, a FMERA Board member, that it was forbidden but got a minor concession that two contractors, the Borough Planner and Engineer, would be allowed to read it and give their input to FMERA. OUTRAGEOUS!

NJFC Members Join In a Day of Celebration

By Joellen Lundy

Joellen Lundy, President of NJ Friends of Clearwater, along with Ed Dlugosz, Ingrid Heldt and other members of NJFC, attended the Sloop Club Congress, the Annual Gathering, and Barn Raising event of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater on Saturday, September 15th.

As did all clubs, Joellen and Ed reported on NJFC initiatives and the NJFC Festival at the Sloop Club Congress. We received our Sloop Club Charter. We attended the Annual Gathering and witnessed the induction of new and re-elected members of the HRSC BOD.





We participated in a bright sunny day of barn raising and musical celebration for the much anticipated Kingston Home Port and Education Center. Clearwater shares the site with the Hudson River Maritime Museum. The Clearwater Sloop now has a permanent home and workshop in an accessible, safe dock on the Rondout Creek right off the Hudson River. The workshop was erected by Amish builders in the traditional barn raising manner which included the "carrying of the beams" by the donors, dignitaries, and the staff.

When Pete Seeger showed up, and since Joellen had never personally met him, she took the opportunity to introduce herself when he came into the tent. "Pete was having a bite to eat, sitting with his wife Toshi", Joellen related, "He was sitting there all by himself, a rare event, so I decided to go say hello and let him know I was the President of NJFC. I introduced myself and Pete said, 'Oh, all you guys down on the Atlantic Ocean! Has Bruce Springsteen done any benefits for you?'"



"I like a man who thinks like me" Joellen said, "I told him Bruce and Patti gave us a generous donation three years ago and he was impressed. I described our festival this year for Pete and he really enjoyed it. Pete looked great, participated in "carrying of the beams" to the barn, and played his banjo and led the song 'If I Had a Hammer.' It was a beautiful day and a memorable event."

Critics Slam FMERA's New Committee Criteria

by Nicole Antonucci, Atlanticville Staff Writer

New membership criteria adopted by the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority (FMERA) that cuts local representation on advisory committees drew criticism at the authority's last meeting. The new criteria adopted by FMERA allows for one local representative from each host town on the environmental, historical preservation, veterans and housing committees, and adds professionals including college or university faculty, contractors or developers, real estate professionals, and representatives of national advocacy groups.

Heather Saffert, a representative of Clean Ocean Action, read a statement at the Sept. 19 meeting by Executive Director Cindy Zipf asking the board to reconsider approving the criteria. In the letter, Zipf warns against conflicts of interest among the committee members and asks that the committee meetings, now closed, be open to the public. "The board should not approve the criteria as it is presented, as it limits public participation in the committees, sets an unacceptable precedent, and undermines the democratic process," Saffert read. "It is critical that there is a clear policy and criteria regarding conflicts of interest to ensure the integrity during the redevelopment process."

Bruce Steadman, executive director of FMERA, said in an interview that professionals would provide a broader perspective on the redevelopment of Fort Monmouth. "Right now, membership is wide open and we [FMERA] didn't feel that it was a justifiable way of doing it in terms of transparency, in terms of being uniform and consistent," he said in an interview. "We are just trying to make it uniform and consistent."

However, Ed Dlugosz, chairman of the Eatontown Environmental Commission and member of the FMERA environmental advisory

committee, argued that the new criteria is a way to exclude certain members of the public who have been critical of FMERA. "The criteria now is not really criteria but allocation of positions among different types of people and different types of organizations," Dlugosz said. "The criteria is a way to get rid of a member of our committee, and that is Tom Mahedy. We know that Tom has a reputation, but he has also been an advocate for the environment." Dlugosz also questioned what role professionals, rather than local environmental advocates, could play on the environmental committee.

According to the committee mission statement, members will review and discuss environmental issues related to the closing of Fort Monmouth and will recommend how to move forward within the context of their area of expertise. "We deal with the environment all the time and we know the impacts on real estate and developers, and I don't know what the use of a professor on that would be."

Continued on NJFC website: www.mcclearwater.org/news.php

Joint Clearwater-Sierra Club October Meeting

Doug O'Malley, interim Executive Director of Environment New Jersey (ENJ), will discuss his organization's recent report on the deteriorating water quality in NJ at the Joint Meeting of NJ Friends of Clearwater and Jersey Shore Group of the Sierra Club. He will speak at 6:30 p.m., Monday, October 22 at the Warner Student Life Center (SLC) Brookdale Community College, Lincroft. The meeting is also open to the college's students and the public.

O'Malley will explain how the state legislature's actions has contributed to the pollution and what regulatory actions should be taken to reverse this deterioration. In particular, He will discuss Raritan River and Bay, the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers, and Barnegat Bay. Only one creek, originating in a state park, is pollution-free. All of the state's other bodies of water are polluted.

In the past few years, the state legislature has loosened a number of Department of Environmental regulations on water quality and pollution controls. In opposition, environmentalists argue that, given the state's pollution problems, controls should be stricter. DEP's commissioner, Bob Martin, has said he will include economic considerations in addition to environmental rules when assessing developers' applications. Last month, Gov. Christie vetoed a bipartisan bill that would have blocked the transport and treatment of controversial gas "fracking" wastewater generated from both in-state and out-of-state gas exploration.

RAB Endorses Independent Testing of Wampum Lake at July Meeting

Members of the Fort Monmouth Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) voted to support Eatontown's effort to seek funding for an independent study to determine the source of contamination at Wampum Lake at the July 2012 meeting.

Members of RAB voted 6-1, with one abstention, to support the study following a presentation by Ed Dlugosz, chairman of the Eatontown Environmental Commission, during the July 12 meeting held in Oceanport. Barricelli cast the only dissenting vote on a motion to pursue funding for additional testing, and RAB member Diane

Crilly abstained.

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